

VIA HAND DELIVERY  
PATENT  
36856.1181

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Norio TANIGUCHI Serial No.: Currently unknown Filing Date: Concurrently herewith For: LADDER FILTER, BRANCHING FILTER, AND COMMUNICATION APPARATUS	
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and in recognition of their duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office relevant information known to be material to patentability, Applicants herewith submit copies of the prior art listed on the attached Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449), including an English abstract. The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the disclosed references be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 16, 2003

  
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet **1** of **1**

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	<b>Norio TANIGUCHI</b>
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	<b>36856.1181</b>

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number-Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
	<b>1</b>	<b>JP 10-126212</b>	<b>05/1998</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>		<b>X</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>JP 10-303698</b>	<b>11/1998</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>		<b>X</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>JP 09-167937</b>	<b>06/1997</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>		<b>X</b>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.